

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ACDA-05 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 DHA-02 CU-02

AF-06 ERDE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /130 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3966

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 2609

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UNGA, MBFR, ME, CY, SP, PO, XF

SUBJ: EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION: MINISTERIAL MEETING,  
ROME, OCT. 30

SUMMARY. MIDDLE EAST-RELATED PROBLEMS DOMINATED MINISTERS'  
POLITICAL CONSULTATION IN ROME. END SUMMARY

1. MFA'S AMB. PLAJA, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS,  
GAVE DCM FOLLOWING RUNDOWN EVENING OCT. 31 RE SUBJECT MEETING.

2. ARAB/ISRAEL. RECALLING THAT THE PRIOR REGULAR MINISTERIAL  
SESSION (VENICE) HAD INSTRUCTED THE MID-EAST EXPERTS GROUP  
TO EXAMINE THE NINE'S RELEVANT POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF  
CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, PLAJA SAID THAT MINISTERS HAD BEEN  
ABLE TO REGISTER SOME MOVEMENT AT THE OCTOBER 30 SESSION  
DUE TO PRESSURE TO ADOPT A COMMON POSITION AT UPCOMING UN  
DISCUSSIONS. THEY HAD DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD STAND BY THEIR  
NOV. 1973 RESOLUTION, AND SUGGESTED NO CHANGES IN RELEVANT  
US RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, REFLECTING CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT  
THAT THE NINE SHOULD "SHOW MORE UNDERSTANDING" OF THE  
PALESTINIAN SIDE, THERE WAS AGREEMENT, WITH A NUMBER OF  
RESERVATIONS (BY WHOM NOT SPECIFIED) THAT "THERE MUST BE  
RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO NATIONAL  
IDENTITY". HOWEVER, THAT SHIFT WOULD BE "BALANCED" BY  
TIEING TO IT REITERATION THAT "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST  
RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXISTENCE".

3. JUST WHAT THE NINE WILL DO WITH THIS CHANGED FORMULATION  
IS NOT YET CLEAR: WHETHER IT WOULD BE OPENLY EMPLOYED AT  
ALL, IF SO BY WHOM, WHETHER INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY.  
PLAJA REITERATED THAT THIS IS NOT DESIGNED AS DECLARATION  
AND IMPLIED THAT ITS MODE OF EMPLOYMENT MAY BE STILL AFFECTED  
OR HOBBLLED BY DECISIONS OF THOSE STATES WHICH REGISTERED  
RESERVATIONS IN REGARD TO IT.

4. EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE. ARAB LEAGUE'S RIAD HAD FORMALLY  
REQUESTED NINE TO SUGGEST A DATE FOR MEETING OF THE DIALOGUE  
AT GENERAL COUNCIL LEVEL. PLAJA SAID PRESIDENT OF DIALOGUE  
(ITALY'S AMB. REGARD) WOULD BE GOING TO CAIRO WEEK BEGINNING  
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NOV. 3 TO REPORT THE NINE'S HEAVILY QUALIFIED CONCURRENCE  
WITH AL REQUEST. NINE WOULD AGREE TO GENERAL CONCIL SESSION  
AT ANY TIME PROVIDED, FIRST, THAT "DUBLIN" FORMULA (TWO  
SIDES, DENATIONALIZED) BE CONTINUED AT THAT LEVEL, AND PRO-  
VIDED FURTHER THAT THERE BE PRIOR AGREEMENT THAT POLITICAL  
QUESTIONS WITH MID-EAST CONTENT WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED.  
PLAJA SAID, ILLUSTRATIVELY, "SO IF THEY WANT TO TALK ABOUT  
CSCE, WE COULD AGREE. BUT NOT, SAY, ABOUT ENERGY-RELATED

PROBLEMS". IF AL AGREES TO THESE CONDITIONS, GENERAL COUNCIL SESSION COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE STAGED IF ARABS WISH TOWARD END OF NOVEMBER 22-27 SESSION IN ABU DHABI, TO REVIEW THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS".

5. RACISM/ZIONISM. THE MINISTERS DECIDED ON A "STRONG PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE EFFORT" TO KILL THE OFFENSIVE RESOLUTION IN PLENARY. TO THAT END ITALIANS IN PRESIDENCY ROLE WILL BE MAKING CAREFULLY TAILORED DEMARCHES IN 25 (UNNAMED) CAPITALS TO INFLUENCE VOTES. THIS EFFORT WILL BE SELECTIVELY AUGMENTED ON BILATERAL BASIS BY OTHER MEMBERS OF NINE IN CAPITALS WHERE THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE USEFUL INFLUENCE.

6. THE NINE WILL ALSO BE CONSULTING BROADLY ON THOSE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS WHICH MIGHT HOLD BEST PROSPECT OF SHELIVING THE PROBLEM.

7. ASSUMING FAILURE OF BOTH ABOVE ATTEMPTS, THE MINISTERS COULD NOT REACH UNANIMITY CONCERNING THEIR STANCE OF THE RELATED TWO "DECADE" RESOLUTIONS. EIGHT WERE READY TO VOTE AGAINST; FRANCE "STILL HESITATED".

8. LEBANON. ALTHOUGH EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED, LEBANON WAS SUBJECT OF ONLY ONE CONCRETE DECISION: THE NINE PERMREPS IN NEW YORK WILL BE ASKED TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF UN ASSISTANCE. PLAJA CITED A REPORT THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM IS THINKING OF A TRIP IN THE AREA, AND PERMREPS MIGHT PRIVATELY SOUND HIM OUT ON POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS.

9. CYPRUS WAS LITTLE DISCUSSED, PERHAPS DUE TO NEWS THAT WALDHEIM DOES NOT ENVISAGE RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. NINE AGREED IN THE MEANTIME TO CONTINUE AS PREVIOUSLY WITH SELECTIVE INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VENTIONS, THE WEIGHT FALLING MORE HEAVILY ON THE TURKS. PLAJA NOTED THAT DEMARCHES CARRIED OUT BY ITALIANS IN PRESIDENCY ROLE HAVE BEEN NUANCED: WHILE ITALIANS HAVE SAID ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING TO BOTH SIDES, THEIR PITCH TO THE GREEKS PRESUPPOSES THAT GREEKS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN DISPOSITION TO BE HELPFUL, WHILE THAT TO TURKS DOES NOT SO PRESUPPOSE. AT CALAGHAN'S REQUEST (DUE TO UK PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE), EC WILL EXAMINE IN BRUSSELS WHAT SUPPORT MIGHT BE PROVIDED FOR CYPRIOT REFUGEES NOW THAT WINTER IS COMING ON.

10M CSCE. MINISTERS AGREED TO CONTINUING CATALOGUING AND CONSULTING ON CSCE AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AND TO PREVENT DIVISIONS AMONGST THEM BY AVOIDING VARYING INTERPRETATIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACT PROVISIONS. THE DISCUSSION ON CSCE WILL BE BRIEFED TO NATO IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

11. PORTUGAL. MINSTERS WILL PRESS THE BRUSSELS MACHINERY TO SPEED UP ARRANGEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC AID.

12. ANGOLA. NINE AGREED THAT PENDING CLARIFICATION OF ANGOLAN SCENE, NO MEMBER WILL TAKE STEPS ON RECOGNITION, WITHDRAWAL THEREOF, ETC. WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITHIN THE NINE.

13. PLAJA SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THAT TWO OTHER AGENDA ITEMS WERE DELIBERATELY NOT RPT NOT TAKEN UP, ON THE ADVICE OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHO MET JUST PRIOR TO THE MINISTERS: MBFR AND THE UK SEAT IN THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFEREMCE. THE FORMER WAS PREMATURE, THE LATTER "TOO DELICATE".

14. COMMENT: WHILE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PROGRESS, OR AT LEAST MOVEMENT, EVOLVED FROM THIS SESSION, WE WOULD JUDGE IT AS LESS THAN A FULL SUCCESS. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTERS WORKED LATE INTO THE EVENING, THE LATE-STARTING MEETING WAS IN FACT TRUNCATED BY "THE UNUSUAL ARRIVAL SCHEDULES" (PLAJA'S WORDS) OF THE MINISTERS. CALLAGHAN ARRIVED AT 1645, SAUVAGNARGUES COULDN'T COME AT ALL (PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE), AND VAN LESELANDS WAS NOT PRESENT. VOLPE

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